

July 2014



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## Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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### Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office **Acreage Reporting Deadline - July 15, 2014**

11 Industrial Park Drive  
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: 603-756-2970 ext. 2  
Fax: 603-756-2978

**County Executive Director:**  
Kelly Greenbacker  
[kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov](mailto:kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov)

**County Committee:**  
Timothy Gowen, Chair  
Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair  
Chris Bartlett, Member  
Hank Kenney, Member  
Linda Rice, Member

**Next County Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM

**NH-Acting Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Kuper

New Hampshire Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Jay Phinizy, reminds agricultural producers that **July 15, 2014, is the deadline to file an acreage report for spring seeded crops.** Planted acres must be reported to FSA by July 15, 2014. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) requires producers on a farm to submit annual acreage reports on all cropland.

"Although some federal farm program enrollments have not yet started, timely acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage that producers submit to their local FSA office, are important to ensure program eligibility," said Jay Phinizy.

**Cheshire-Sullivan County Producers are reminded to call the county office when planting is complete to provide necessary information and schedule an appointment.**

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting date:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after

[brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov](mailto:brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov)

planting is completed.

**NH Farm Loan Team:**

The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St, Box 212, Suite 212  
Concord, NH 03301

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. Final 2013 production of covered crops is also due by July 15th in order to be included in the 2014 Actual Production History (APH).

Producers should contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office if they are uncertain about acreage reporting deadlines, crop certification, and crop loss reports.

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## Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Nomination Deadline

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgement and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). Nomination forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014.

The Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee has five local Administrative Areas (LAA). The LAA's holding an election this year are:

LAA 1 - Plainfield, Cornish, Croydon, Grantham, and Springfield

Linda Rice of Cornish Flat currently represents this area.

LAA 5 - Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Winchester, Swanzey, Troy, Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, and Rindge

Chris Bartlett of Jaffrey currently represents this area.

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## 2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must be Filed by Aug. 1, 2014 for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the ELAP fact sheet at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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## USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers

USDA has announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers. USDA also unveiled [www.USDA.gov/newfarmers](http://www.USDA.gov/newfarmers), a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

USDA's [www.usda.gov/newfarmers](http://www.usda.gov/newfarmers) has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their operations.

Today's policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

- Waiving service fees for new and beginning farmers to enroll in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2014 crop year. NAP provides risk management tools to farmers who grow crops for which there is no crop insurance product. Under this waiver, announced via an official notice to Farm Service Agency offices, farmers and ranchers whom already enrolled in NAP for the 2014 crop year and certified to being a beginning farmer or socially disadvantaged farmer are eligible for a service fee refund.
- Eliminating payment reductions under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for new and beginning farmers which will allow routine, prescribed, and emergency grazing outside the primary nesting season on enrolled land consistent with approved conservation plans. Previously, farmers and ranchers grazing on CRP land were subject to a reduction in CRP payments of up to 25 percent. Waiving these reductions for new and beginning farmers will provide extra financial support during times of emergency like drought and other natural disasters.
- Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Under this provision, beginning farmers can claim up to 90 percent of losses for lost livestock, such as bees, under ELAP. This is a fifty percent increase over previously available payment amounts to new and beginning farmers.

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers - including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees, and other benefits. For more information on USDA actions in support of beginning farmers, visit [www.usda.gov/newfarmers](http://www.usda.gov/newfarmers).

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## Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan

features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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## Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on Cheshire-Sullivan County farms. New Hampshire FSA employees care about our customers, and want to remind them to practice farm safety.

1. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety tips for farmers: Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces while entering confined spaces, such as grain bins, silos, and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery. Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

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## Dates to Remember and July Interest Rates

### Dates to Remember

**July 4** - Independence Day Holiday - Office Closed

**July 15** - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and All Other Crops

**July 15** - NAP participants: 2013 production reporting deadline for crops covered

**Aug 1** - Nomination Period ends for 2014 County Committee elections

**Aug 1** - Deadline to file losses under 2012 and 2013 ELAP

**Sept 1** - Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed

**Sept 9** - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Meeting

### Selected Interest Rates for July 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.125%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 3.875%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer - 1.50%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Joint Financing - 2.50%

Emergency Loans - 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.150%

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).